

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, September 11, 2014, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0950

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY PETRO POROSHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN);

The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN);

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCARELLI);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN); and

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO); and

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER).

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency H.E. Bockari Kortu Stevens, the Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 10 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

The President of Ukraine, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President POROSHENKO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Majority Lead-

er, Members of the House, Members of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen, it is impossible to imagine what I am feeling right now. How symbolic is the unity of the United States Congress in solidarity with Ukraine.

This is exactly what Ukraine now needs the most, unity and solidarity, not only with the United States Congress, not only with the United States, but with the whole world.

Let me thank you for your warmth and hospitality. Addressing both Houses of the Congress is one of the highest political privileges.

Standing here, I am grateful and fully aware that this honor goes not to me, but to the people of Ukraine, those brave men and women who are today on the forefront of the global fight for democracy. Forty-five million Ukrainian people are watching this speech in this session of the Congress, seeing and absolutely sure about our solidarity and our joint and common strength. And please allow me to speak on their behalf.

I will focus on the one thing that is at the core of Ukraine's existence today: freedom. There are moments in history when freedom is more than just a political concept. At those moments, freedom becomes the ultimate choice which defines who you are as a person or as a nation.

Ukraine has lived this moment over the last 10 months and became the scene of the most heroic story of the last decade, a synonym for sacrifice, dedication, and the unbreakable will to live free.

The people of Ukraine stood up to the corrupt regime of Yanukovich. They stood their ground during this dramatic winter. More of you were together with us during the last winter, and I thank you for this very important—for us—gesture of solidarity.

The defenders of freedom were willing to sacrifice their lives for the sake of a better future. What is even more amazing is that they and we won. Armed with only sticks and shields, they attacked the special police and chased them away.

The victory gained on Independence Square in Kiev, now known to the whole world as the very international word of "Maidan," was a victory against police brutality, harassment by the state-controlled media, violence, and intimidation.

There is nothing more impressive than seeing hundreds of thousands of peaceful people forcing out a violent dictator and changing the course of history—the second time in our history.

Day after day, week after week, month after month, thousands upon thousands streamed into the streets of Kiev simply because their dignity didn't allow them to remain passive and silent while their liberties were at stake.

The standoff on the Maidan lasted a long 3 months. It culminated on February 20 and 21, when over 100 protesters in 1 day were shot by snipers.